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Mount Mercy Academy Sports Round-Up

Golf

The Mount Mercy Golf team won both of its matches last week, squaring its record at 2-2. The Magic defeated Mount Saint Mary in a rain shortened match and then bested Buffalo Seminary. Once again sophomore Addison Barth paced the team in both matches. She posted a 55 against Mount Saint Mary, playing the last two holes in the pouring rain and carded a 50 against Buffalo Seminary. Fellow sophomore Lacey Sheehan had a 51 against Buffalo Seminary. The team had three matches this week.

Soccer

The Mount Mercy Soccer Team raised its record to 2-1, winning a non-league contest against Olmstead 5-1. “The girls brought that same high energy from our game against Maryvale to tonight’s game and it did not disappoint us,” first year head coach Maddie Higgins said. “It was combination runs, smart send balls, and a strong defensive line that contributed to securing this victory.”

The Magic opened up a 4-0 lead in the first half, with liberal substitutions throughout the half as well as in the second half. Junior Madelyn Hart (Buffalo) scored the first two goals of the game. Junior Abby Mailloux (Buffalo) assisted on the first goal and senior Mya Wood (Blasdel) earned the assist on the second goal. Mailloux scored the third goal and assisted on sophomore Tia Thourling’s (West Seneca) first goal of her Mount Mercy career, the team’s fourth score. Sophomore Rosie Bandura (West Seneca) closed the scoring, with Hart picking up the assist. Sophomore Amelia Lalley (Buffalo) earned the victory in the net, stifling the Olmstead offensive attack.

The team opened its Monsignor Martin League season this week and Higgins expects Cardinal O’Hara and Mount Saint Mary to be their toughest opponents. She believes that the team’s defensive line is its strength this season. Higgins also feels that team chemistry is also a key to this season. “Many of these girls have been friends and played on teams with each other for most of their lives. This brings comfort and trust onto the field.” Higgins remarked. “The girls know each other’s style of play, which creates great flow when we play.”

Hart and senior Mary Bea Lalley are returning All-Catholic selections. Also expected to have prominent roles this season are junior Jenna Brown (Buffalo), Amelia Lalley and Bandura. Also expected to be a top newcomer is freshman Abby Kopf (East Aurora). Although this is her first year as the head coach, Higgins was the assistant coach for the past two seasons. She believes that with unity, strong communication and continuous hard work that the Magic can challenge for a league title. Higgins, along with assistant coach Caitlin Skipper, expect 110 percent effort each and every day, support for teammates and to win the championship so that a soccer banner will hang in the gym.
Varsity Volleyball

The Mount Mercy Varsity Volleyball team split its two contests last week, defeating Cardinal O’Hara and losing to perennial league champion St. Mary’s of Lancaster. The split leaves the team’s record at 2-2.

The Magic traveled to O’Hara and won in straight sets, 25-19, 25-16 and 25-20. Although Coach Rachel Kaufman feels that the team needs to continue to work on its readiness and footwork, she commented that, “Our communication was unmatched and our serving leads to us winning games.”

Junior Maggie Bell (Buffalo) had five kills for Mount Mercy and freshman Mia Freedenberg (Lakeview) had ten ace serves. Kaufman was pleased with the versatility of senior Grace Spero (Buffalo) who played both the middle hitter and setter positions.

The Magic lost in straight sets to St. Mary’s. Senior Mary Vattes (Buffalo) had eight digs and junior Bella Maloney (Lakeview) was recognized for strong serving. “St. Mary’s is a very tough team, but I am proud of our team for never giving up and staying ready,” Kaufman remarked.

Kaufman, in her first year of coaching, believes that serving is the strength of her team and developing aggressiveness and strong communication are two of the keys to a successful season. She expects the young team to develop their skills throughout the season. She believes that Maloney, Vattes, Spero and senior Kyra Soto (Buffalo) are her top returning players and has high expectations for Freedenberg.

Cross Country

The cross country team will open its season on September 28th. The team will be led by returning runners Ellie Godsoe (Buffalo), Jillian Schneck (Buffalo) and Gemma McIlroy (Hamburg), all juniors and sophomore Addison Barth (Hamburg). Coach Bob Walsh, in his seventh year at Mount Mercy, also expects freshman Bella Scarcello (Buffalo) to contribute to the team’s success. Walsh feels that success may be measured for the team in several ways, wins and losses, improved times and placing higher at the league meet. The Magic face Nardin and Buffalo Seminary in their first meet.

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